

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MOSCOW 09145 021323Z

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ACTION SCSE-00

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 SCA-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 EB-11

INR-10 JUSE-00 L-03 NSAE-00 RSC-01 /052 W

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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0838

INFO US COAST GUARD WASHDC

MARITIME ADMINISTRATION

UNCLAS MOSCOW 9145

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: UR US CGEN

SUBJECT: REPORTED DETENTION OF AMERICAN SEAMEN ABOARD SHIPS
IN ODESSA HARBOR

1. AT OPENING OF BUSINESS AUGUST 2 EMBASSY IN RECEIPT FOLLOWING
MESSAGE FROM MERCHANT SHIP "EAGLE CHARGER" IN ODESSA HARBOR:
"AMERICAN SHIPS ANCHORED WEEKS ODESSA HARBOR DENIED SHORE LEAVE
BECAUSE PAST MISCONDUCT INDIVIDUAL SEAMEN STOP CERTAINLY DESIRE
NO LIKE TREATMENT RUSSIAN MARINERS BUT HOPE IMAGE AND TOURIST
IMPLICATIONS COULD BE DISCUSSED WITH HOST GOVERNMENT."

2. MESSAGE SIGNED VERNON LEE DAWSON, WHO IS PRESUMABLY MASTER.
MESSAGE WAS EVIDENTLY RADIOED TO SHORE IN ENGLISH AND TRANS-
FERRED TO EMBASSY BY SOVIET TELEX.

3. CONSOFF LATER SAME DAY TELEPHONED CAPTAIN LANKOV, MANAGER OF ODESSA

INFLOT, WHO CONFIRMED SOME AMERICAN SHIPS HAVE BEEN FORCED TO
RIDE AT DISTANT ROADS IN ODESSA HARBOR BECAUSE OF CROWDED
CONDITIONS AND UNLOADING DELAYS. LANKOV ALSO SAID HARBOR HAD
INSUFFICIENT NUMBER OF CUTTERS TO TRANSFER CREWS FROM DISTANT
POINTS INTO ODESSA PORT. WHEN QUERIED, LANDKOV ADMITTED SOME
SHIPS HAVE BEEN FORCED TO WAIT UP TO FIVE DAYS AT DISTANT
ROADS.

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PAGE 02 MOSCOW 09145 021323Z

4. WHEN CONSOFF ASKED LANKOV ABOUT BEHAVIOR OF AMERICAN SEAMEN,

HE ASSURED THAT THERE HAD BEEN NO MISCONDUCT AND "ALL IS NORMAL." HE ADDED HE WOULD HAVE INFORMED CONSOFFS OF ANY DIFFICULTIES, AND NO SEAMEN HAVE BEEN DETAINED ON BOARD FOR MISCONDUCT. WHEN QUERIED SPECIFICALLY ABOUT "EAGLE CHARGER," HE SAID HE WAS AWARE OF NO PROBLEM WITH CREW.

5. COMMENT: NOW THAT ODESSA INFLOT HAS BEEN MADE AWARE OF APPARENT PROBLEM IT WILL PRESUMABLY MAKE APPROPRIATE ARRANGEMENTS FOR "EAGLE CHARGER" SEAMEN. CONSOFF WILL ADVISE SHIP OF HIS CONTACT WITH ODESSA INFLOT AND REQUEST FURTHER REPORT IF NO SUCH ARRANGEMENTS FORTHCOMING IN NEAREST FUTURE. LANKOV'S STATEMENT ABOUT INSUFFICIENT NUMBER OF CUTTERS AND PORT DELAYS RINGS AUTHENTIC ON THE SURFACE. IF FURTHER SUCH REPORTS RECEIVED, EMBASSY WILL HOWEVER CONSIDER SENDING CONSOFF TO PORT TO ENCOURAGE SOVIETS MAKE SPECIAL EFFORT TO BRING AMERICAN SEAMEN ASHORE.
DUBS

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